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1948 REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



SHILDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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SHILDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1948

Chairman of the Council, 1948–1949:

Councillor G. W. KIRTLEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. H. GIBSON

Chairman of the Health Committee: Councillor W. H. GIBSON

Chairman of the Housing Committee: Councillor M. MASON

Councillors:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| J. H. APPLEBY | C. T. BROWNLESS | P. PEARSE |
| A. ASTON | G. COATES, C.C. | W. STOKOE |
| W. BLAND | P. R. DOUTHWAITE | J. ROBINSON |
| H. BOUGHTON | T. KIRKBY | T. W. STOREY |
| G. C. GIBSON | F. H. MANNERS | A. SIMPSON |
| | B. WALKER, J.P. | |

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health (part-time) :

P. V. ANDERSON, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. K. HILL, M.B.E., M.R.San.I.

Clerical Assistant:

S. THOMPSON

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work of the District during the year ending 31st December, 1948.

P. V. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Population :

The Registrar General's figures as at the middle of 1947, give the resident population of the District as 14,550, an increase of 200 over the previous year.

Area :

The Urban District covers 4,970 acres, including the parishes of Eldon, Old Eldon, Fylands, Middridge and Brusselton.

Inhabited Houses :

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the District at the end of December, 1948, was 4,256.

Of this number, 65 were newly constructed on Council Estates and two " Unfit Houses " vacated and demolished.

Rateable Value :

The Rateable Value of the District is £45,039 and the Product of a Penny Rate £159.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS, 1948

| Live Births | Male | Female | Total | Birth Rate |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Legitimate | 132 | 124 | 256 | 18·9 |
| Illegitimate | 7 | 12 | 19 | |
| | <hr/> 139 | <hr/> 136 | <hr/> 275 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | . | | | |
| Still Births | Male | Female | Total | Birth Rate |
| Legitimate | 6 | 5 | 11 | ·8 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | — | 1 | |
| | <hr/> 7 | <hr/> 5 | <hr/> 12 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | |

Comparative Years :

| | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|-------|
| 1936. | Live Births. | Birthrate per 1,000 population... | | | | 15·06 |
| | Still Births. | „ | „ | „ | „ | ·67 |
| | Population. | 11,880. | | | | |
| 1946. | Live Births. | Birthrate per 1,000 population... | | | | 20·87 |
| | Still Births. | „ | „ | „ | „ | ·76 |
| 1947. | Live Births. | „ | „ | „ | „ | 25·78 |
| | Still Births. | „ | „ | „ | „ | 1·4 |

Comparison with County Averages, 1948 :

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| County Birth Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20·0 |
| Shildon Birth Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18·9 |

DEATHS AS PER RETURNS TO MEDICAL OFFICER**Total No. of Deaths Notified : 129**

| Under 1 yr. | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-25 | 25-45 | 45-60 | 60-70 | 70-80 | Over 80 |
|----------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| 8 | 1 | — | 4 | 5 | 15 | 28 | 42 | 26 |

Deaths Outside the District : 57**COMPARISONS WITH COUNTY AVERAGE****Maternal Death Rate :**

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| County Average ... | ... | ... | 1.31 per 1,000 Births |
| Shildon „ ... | ... | ... | 3.67 „ „ „ |

Puerperal Sepsis Death Rate :

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| County Average ... | ... | ... | 0.16 per 1,000 Births |
| Shildon „ ... | ... | ... | Nil „ „ „ |

Other Puerperal Causes :

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| County Average ... | ... | ... | 1.15 per 1,000 Births |
| Shildon „ ... | ... | ... | Nil „ „ „ |

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate :

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| County Average ... | ... | ... | 0.49 per 1,000 population |
| Shildon „ ... | ... | ... | 0.48 „ „ „ |

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate :

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| County Average ... | ... | ... | 0.10 per 1,000 population |
| Shildon „ ... | ... | ... | 0.21 „ „ „ |

DEATHS, 1948

| | Male | Female | Total | Death Rate |
|--------------------------|------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| Deaths | 91 | 95 | 186 | 12·8 |
| Infantile Under 1 yr. | 6 | 4 | 10 | 36·3 per 1,000 births |
| Still Births | 7 | 12 | 19 | 69 per 1,000 births |

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

| Year | Death Rate Per 1,000 Population |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 1905 | 19·2 |
| 1939 | 11·4 |
| 1940 | 14·9 |
| 1941 | 13·5 |
| 1942 | 13·2 |
| 1943 | 15·0 |
| 1944 | 13·1 |
| 1945 | 12·8 |
| 1946 | 13·04 |
| 1947 | 13·6 |
| 1948 | 12·8 |

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

| Year | Infantile Mortality Per 1,000 Births |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1905 | 167 |
| 1936 | 72 |
| 1946 | 61 |
| 1947 | 53·3 |
| 1948 | 36·3 |

It is a pleasure to record the lowest Infantile Mortality Rate Sildon has ever had.

Comparison with County Average, 1948

| | Death Rate | Inf. Mort. Rate | Still Birth Rate |
|--------|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| County | 11·1 | 47 | 53 |
| Sildon | 12·8 | 36·3 | 69 |

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948

| | Males | Females |
|--|-------|---------|
| ALL CAUSES | 91 | 95 |
| Whooping cough | 1 | |
| Tuberculosis (respiratory system) ... | 2 | 5 |
| Other tubercular diseases | 1 | 2 |
| Syphilitic diseases | | 1 |
| Cancer of the buccal. cav. and Æsoph (H), uterus (F) | 2 | 2 |
| Cancer of the stomach and duodenum | 3 | 2 |
| Cancer of all other sites | 6 | 6 |
| Diabetes | | 1 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 11 | 15 |
| Heart diseases | 26 | 23 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system ... | 7 | 9 |
| Bronchitis | 8 | 5 |
| Pneumonia | 4 | 4 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 5 | |
| Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum ... | 3 | |
| Other digestive diseases | 1 | 3 |
| Nephritis | | 6 |
| Other maternal causes | | 1 |
| Premature birth | 1 | 2 |
| Congenital malformation | 2 | 1 |
| Suicide | 1 | 1 |
| Other violent causes | 1 | 2 |
| All other causes | 6 | 4 |

TUBERCULOSIS, 1948

The following cases remained upon the Register at the end of the year:—

| | | | | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|---------------|
| Males | ... | ... | ... | 29 | 35 |
| Females | ... | ... | ... | 46 | 34 |
| | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | | | 75 | 69 |
| | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> |

The number of known Tuberculosis Cases in the District represents 0·95% of the population.

SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS

| INFECTIOUS DISEASE | Under 1 yr. | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-61 | Over 61 |
|------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| SCARLET FEVER | — | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 26 | 8 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |
| DIPHTHERIA ... | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| PUERPERAL PYREXIA ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| PNEUMONIA ... | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| MEASLES ... | 12 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| WHOOPING COUGH ... | 19 | 24 | 17 | 27 | 19 | 22 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| ERYSIPELAS ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| POLIOMYELITIS... | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TUBERCULOSIS— MALES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (i) PULMONARY | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| (ii) NON-PULMONARY | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| FEMALES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (i) PULMONARY | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | 2 |
| (ii) NON-PULMONARY | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — |

Note.—Only one notification of Diphtheria was confirmed as positive. All cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are accommodated at Tindale Crescent Infectious Disease Hospital which has 109 beds for the purpose.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents) from 1/1/1948–30/6/1948 :

| Under 5 yrs. | 5—14 | Total |
|--------------|------|-------|
| 94 | 4 | 98 |

Total number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to complete full course):

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Number (1/1/1948–30/6/1948) | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|

Estimated mid-year child population (1948) :

| Under 5 yrs. | 5—15 | Total |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| 1,345 | 2,309 | 3,654 |

Number immunised according to Local Authority's records at 30th June, 1948 :

| Under 5 yrs. | 5—15 | Total |
|--------------|------|-------|
| 295 | 815 | 1,110 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Percentage immunised | ... | ... | ... | 30·4% |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|

These statistics possibly give a false picture.

From the inception of the National Health Act (5th July, 1948) this service became the responsibility of Durham County Council.

Whilst it is known that family doctors have continued to immunise children, it is not likely that they will furnish records until they are paid for doing so.

Diphtheria Immunisation statistics, as also those for Vaccination, will continue in a chaotic state until the dispute between the Minister of Health and the Licensed Profession has been resolved, and the family doctor knows that he will be paid for services rendered.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply :

The area is supplied by means of a piped supply of water provided by the Durham County Water Board and continues to be ample in all wards and is of excellent quality.

A High Pressure System was introduced during the year to service Auckland Terrace district, thus providing a more efficient supply to the property in that area. Continual Bacteriological and Chemical Tests are carried out by the Durham County Water Board on the supply to the District.

Refuse Collection :

The whole area is serviced by the Council, the service including the collection of House Refuse, Trade Refuse and Salvage.

The sale of Salvage during the year resulted in an income to the Council as follows:—

| Description | | | | Tons | Cwts. | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|------|----|----|
| Waste Paper | ... | ... | ... | 46 | 0 | 320 | 7 | 1 |
| Scrap | ... | ... | ... | 110 | 0 | 174 | 13 | 9 |
| | | | | 156 | 0 | £495 | 0 | 10 |

The collection of Waste Food was suspended for the year, but is expected to re-start in 1949, when more efficient methods will be introduced.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The drains and sewers continue to work in a satisfactory manner, and the sewage works give excellent results.

RODENT CONTROL

Two complete sewer treatments have been carried out during the year, results of which have shown a marked drop in the number of rats present in the area. In addition, private properties were also treated as and where necessary.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Council continues to make all efforts to have the nuisance caused by Pulverised Coal Dust in the town abated, and with this in view, has enlisted the assistance of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

Certain improvements have been made, and it is anticipated that these will develop during the next few years until this nuisance ceases to exist.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Cont.)

Summary of Notices and Work Done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1948.

| | | | | No. of Informal Notices | No. of Formal Notices | No. Abated |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| I. Public Health Acts | | | | | | |
| Dwelling-houses and Schools | } Structural Defects | | | 88 | 22 | 70 |
| Cowsheds | ... | ... | ... | 6 | | 6 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | 12 | | 12 |
| Ashpits and Privies | ... | | | 2 | 2 | |
| Deposits of Refuse and Manure | ... | ... | ... | 8 | | 8 |
| Water Closets | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 3 | 13 |
| Defective Yard Paving | ... | | | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| House | } Defective Traps | | | 5 | 2 | |
| Drainage | } Other Faults | | | 16 | 3 | 17 |
| Water Supply | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Other Nuisances | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 86 | 51 |
| Totals | | | | 163 | 121 | 187 |

II. Water, Food and Drugs :

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Samples of Water taken for Analysis | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Seizures of Unwholesome Food (Voluntarily surrendered) | | | | 77 |

III. Precautions Against Infectious Disease :

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed | ... | 3 |
| Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease | ... | 61 |

IV. General :

| | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| Number of New Houses Erected during the Year | ... | 65 |
| Number of such Houses Occupied during the Year | ... | 65 |
| Total number of Water Closets in the District | ... | 3,796 |
| Total number of Ash Closets in the District | ... | 440 |

MILK RETAILERS (DESIGNATED MILK)

There are fourteen (14) Retail Purveyors of Milk in the District, three (3) of whom are supplying either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Frequent samples have been taken by the Inspector of Weights and Measures and also by the Durham War Agricultural Executives Committee's representatives and all were found to be satisfactory with the exception of one case which was brought before Court for prosecution.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MEAT)

All meat for the Shildon Urban Area is supplied by the W.M.S.A., situate at Bishop Auckland, where home-killed meat is inspected before delivery to this area.

Of the Imported Frozen Meat delivered to this area, 770 lbs., was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre provides for consultation and treatment twice weekly.

School Clinic provides for consultation and treatment twice weekly.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Since 5th July, 1948, Ambulance Services have been provided by the Durham County Council, the centre for this area being Bishop Auckland, where three Ambulances are available. In addition, a private Ambulance is still available for subscribers who work at Shildon Railway Wagon Works. Should none of these be available at any time, then the Bishop Auckland Centre calls upon the Pool for an Ambulance, the nearest emergency centre being at Crook.

HOUSING

The Council's Pre-War and Post-War Housing Programmes are summarised as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 1919 Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | 126 Houses Erected |
| 1930–1935 Acts (Slum Clearance, Overcrowding) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 „ „ |
| Post-War Temporary Houses | ... | | | | 44 „ „ |
| Post-War Permanent Houses | ... | | | | 55 „ „ |
| Post-War Aged People's Bungalows | | | | | 10 Erected |

Since the opening of the Council's Housing List in June, 1946, approximately 1,200 applications have been received.

Houses have been allocated on a Points Scheme, namely, points for Overcrowding, War Service and Length of Married Life.

Special Cases due to serious illness, e.g., Tuberculosis or other urgent reasons, were considered under the Hardship List.

In addition, the Council has had to provide houses for Key Workers in the new factories in their area and has also provided accommodation for the police to assist the Durham County Constabulary to provide better service to the area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Visits are paid regularly to the factories in the District to ensure that they comply with the various Provisions, Rules and Orders under this Act. Improvements have been carried out in the factories at the instigation of the Council, but many of the undesirable features existing during the year 1948 will be overcome with the establishing of new factories on the New Trading Estate, Shildon, in 1949.

IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY IN THE AREA

The following are suggested as matters requiring attention as early as possible:—

- (1) Privy Conversion Scheme to replace the existing Ash Closets throughout the area.
- (2) Slum Clearance for houses totally irreparable.
- (3) Modern methods for the Disposal of Household and Trade Refuse, either by Controlled Tipping or by Refuse Destructor.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

P. V. ANDERSON,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Shildon Urban District Council.*

Printed by
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Shildon

